

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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DRAFTED BY ARA/MEX:CPTORREY:GLG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPET, MX

SUBJECT: AEROMEXICO REFUELING PROBLEM AT DETROIT

REF: MEXICO'S 9196

1. MEXICAN EMBASSY SENT NOTE TO DEPARTMENT DATED NOVEMBER 28 STATING GOM CONCERN THAT VARIOUS AVIATION FUEL SUPPLIERS IN US CITIES HAD NOTIFIED MEXICAN AIRLINEREPRESENTATIVES THAT A REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF FUEL WOULD BE MADE THE FOLLOWING WEEK. HE NOTE POINTED OUT THAT MEXICO HAD PLACED NO RESTRICTIONS ON THE REFUELING OF AMERICAN AIRLINES OPERATING TO AND THROUGH MEXICO. ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY THE NOTE ASKED THAT STEPS BE TAKEN TO FURNISH THE MEXICAN AIRLINES BONDED AND NON-BONDED FUEL IN THE SAME AMOUNTS AUTHORIZED ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULES SET FOR 1972.

2. THE EMBASSY WAS INFORMED ORALLY THAT THE JET FUEL SHORTAGE WAS MORE SERIOUS THAN PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED, THAT THE USG DID NOT YET HAVE THE MECHANISM TO ALLOCATE THE FUEL STOCKS, THAT US AIRLINES ARE ALSO BEING EFFECTED BY THE SHORTAGE, THAT SOME SUPPLIERS HAD LARGER STOCKS THAN OTHERS,

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AND THAT DETROIT AND PHILADELPHIA ARE ESPECIALLY HARD HIT

BY THE SHORTAGES.

3. WE SUBSEQUENTLY WERE INFORMED BY THE MEXICAN EMBASSY THAT AN AERONAVES FLIGHT THROUGH DETROIT TO TORONTO WAS THREATENED WITH BEING STRANDED IN DETROIT. THIS FLIGHT DID OBTAIN THE REQUIRED FUEL IN DETROIT.

4. AMBASSADOR DE OLLOQUI TOLD ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH ON DECEMBER 7 THAT AN AERONAVES FLIGHT HAD BEEN STRANDED IN DETROIT AND ASKED OUR ASSISTANCE IN SEEING THAT MEXICAN AIRCRAFT ARE REFUELED IN THE US, AGAIN STATING RECIPROCITY AS THE BASIS FOR THIS REQUEST. HE WAS AGAIN TOLD THAT WE HAVE TRIED TO BE HELPFUL IN SPECIFIC CASES, BUT THAT USG DID NOT YET HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ALLOCATE EXISTING STOCKS. HE WAS FURTHER INFORMED THAT AN ALLOCATION PROGRAM IS EXPECTED TO BE IN EFFECT BY JANUARY 7, 1974.

5. WE KNOW OF NO MEXICAN AIRCRAFT ACTUALLY STRANDED FOR LACK OF FUEL, DE OLLOQUI'S REMARKS PROBABLY RELATING TO THE THREAT OF THAT HAPPENING. RUSH

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